

FY 2019 CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS GEN-X IN CAPE FEAR RIVER

ISSUE: GenX and emerging contaminants in the Cape Fear watershed in North Carolina

TALKING POINTS:

- EPA has initiated an investigation into Chemours' compliance with the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) including a 2009 order issued under the TSCA for the production of GenX to determine if the company is in compliance, including the order to control releases at the Fayetteville, NC facility. EPA continues to coordinate with the State of North Carolina to ensure that Chemours appropriately addresses the issues raised in the Notices of Violation the State issued on November 13, 2017, and February 12, 2018.
- At the request of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, EPA is also performing independent laboratory analysis for GenX and several other compounds in water samples being collected by NCDEQ along the Cape Fear River, including: wastewater, surface water, ground water, and treated drinking water samples. Additionally, EPA is analyzing air emission samples collected from stack testing submitted by Chemours as well as precipitation samples collected by NCDEQ.
- EPA is committed to supporting states and tribes to address Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), including GenX, and is gathering and evaluating additional scientific information to identify risks and determine if it is necessary to set drinking water health advisory levels or take other actions. EPA has received data from Chemours and is using it to update its risk assessment for GenX.

BACKGROUND:

- EPA has communicated consistently with local and state officials about the Agency's activities to address GenX from the Chemours facility specifically, and PFAS more broadly.
- EPA has recently formed an Agency-wide committee to address PFAS.
- EPA has established non-regulatory drinking water health advisories for PFOA and PFOS based on the agency's assessment of the latest peer-reviewed science. These advisories provide drinking water system operators, and state, tribal and local officials who have the primary responsibility for overseeing these systems, with information on the health risks of these chemicals, so they can take the appropriate actions to protect people.
- EPA has collected data on six PFAS substances in public drinking water systems and is evaluating this information to determine the next steps to protect public health.
- EPA will host a National Leadership Summit in May where participants will discuss efforts to characterize risks, develop monitoring and treatment techniques, identify near-term actions to address challenges facing states and communities, and develop risk communications strategies to help communities address public health concerns with PFAS.
- Using information from the National Leadership Summit and community engagement, EPA will develop a PFAS Management Plan for release later this year.
- In its review of the GenX Pre-Manufacture Notice (PMN) submitted by DuPont (now Chemours), EPA determined that the chemical could be commercialized if the conditions of the consent order were met. Other replacements for older PFAS chemicals submitted as PMNs also went through review.